A new Song:

Shewing the crueltie of *Gernutus* a Iew, who lending to a Merchant a hundred Crownes, would have a pound of his flesh, because he could not pay him at the day appointed.

To the Tune of *Black and Yellow*.

IN Venice Towne not long agoe
a cruell Iew did dwell,
Which lived all on Usurie,
as Ital an writers tell.

Gernutus called was the Iew,
which never thought to die,
Nor never yet did any good
to them in stretes that lye.

His life was like a Barrow Hogge,
that liveth many a day,
Yet never once doth any good,
untill men kill him slay.

Or like a filthy heape of dung,
that lyeth in a hold;
Which never can doe any good,
till it be spred abroad.

So fares it with this Usurer,
he cannot sleepe in rest,
For feare the theefe doth him pursue,
to plucke him from his nest.

His heart doth thinke on many a wile,
how to deceive the poore;
His mouth is almost full of mucke,
yet still he gapes for more.

His Wife must lend a shilling,
for every weeke a penny,
Yet bring a Pledge that's double worth,
if that you will have any.

And see (likewise) you keepe your day,
or else you lose it all:
This was the living of his Wife,
her Cow she doth it call.

Within that Citie dwelt that time
a Merchant of great fame,
Which being distressed in his need,
unto Gernutus came:

Desiring him to stand his friend,
for twelve moneth and a day,
To lend to him an hundred Crownes,
and he for it would pay

Whatsoever he would demand of him,
and Pledges he should have:
No (qd. the Iew with fleering lookes)
Sir, aske what you will have,

No penny for the loane of it
for one yeere you shall pay;
You may doe me as good a turne,
before my dying day.

But we will have a merry feast,
for to be talked long:
You shall make me a Bond (quoth he)
that shall be large and strong.

And this shall be the forfeiture,
of your owne flesh a pound:
If you agree, make you the Bond,
and here's a hundred Crownes.

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The ſecond part of the Iewes crueltie, ſetting forth the mercifulneſſe of the Iudge towards the Merchant.

To the ſame Tune.

WIth right good will, the Merchant ſaid,
and ſo th' Bond was made.
When twelue moneth and a day drew on,
that back it ſhould be payd,

The Merchants ſhips were all at Sea,
and Money came not in;
Which way to take, or what to doe,
to thinke he doth begin

And to Gernutus ſtraight he comes,
with cap and bended knée;
And ſayd to him of curteſie,
I pray you beare with mée.

My day is come, and I haue not
the Money for to pay:
And little good the forfeiture
will doe you, I dare ſay.

With all my heart, Gernutus ſaid,
command it to your minde;
In things of bigger weight then this,
you ſhall me readie finde.

He goes his way: the day once paſt,
Gernutus doth not ſticke
To get a Seriant preſently,
and clapt him on the backe.

And layd him into Priſon ſtrong,
and ſued his Bond withall;
And when the iudgement day was come,
for iudgement he doth call.

The Merchants friends came thither faſt,
with many a weeping eye;
For other meanes they could not finde,
but he that day muſt dye.

Some offered for his hundred Crownes
fiue hundred for to pay;
And ſome a thouſand, two, or three,
yet ſtill he did denay:

And at the laſt, ten thouſand Crownes
they offered him to ſaue.
Gernutus ſaid, I will no Gold,
my forfeit I will haue,

A pound of fleſh is my deſire,
and that ſhall be my hyre.
Then ſaid the Iudge, yet good my friend
let me of you deſire,

To take the fleſh from ſuch a place,
as yet you let him liue:
Doe ſo, and loe an hundred Crownes
to thee here will I giue.

No, no (quoth he) no iudgement here,
for this it ſhall be try'de;
For I will haue my pound of fleſh
from vnder his right ſide.

It grieued all the companie
his crueltie to ſee,
For neither friend nor foe could helpe,
but he muſt ſpoyled bee.

The blondie Iew now readie is,
with whetted blade in hand,
To ſpoyle the blood of Innocent,
by forfeit of his Bond.

And as he was about to ſtrike
in him the deadly blow:
Stay (quoth the Iudge) thy crueltie,
I charge thee to doe ſo.

Sith néeds thou will thy forfeit haue,
which is of fleſh a pound:
See that thou ſhed no drop of blood,
nor yet the man confound,

For if thou doe: like murtherer,
thou here ſhalt hanged bee:
Likewiſe of fleſh ſee that thou cut
no more then longs to thee.

For if thou take either more or leſſe,
to the value of a Mite,
Thou ſhalt be hanged preſently,
as is both Law and right.

Gernutus now wart frantick mad,
and wotes not what to ſay:
Quoth he at laſt, ten thouſand Crownes
I will that he ſhall pay,

And ſo I grant to let him free:
the Iudge doth anſwere make,
You ſhall not haue a penny given,
your forfeiture now take.

At the laſt he doth demand,
but for to haue his owne:
No (quoth the Iudge) doe as you liſt,
thy Iudgement ſhall be ſhowne.

Either take your pound of fleſh (qd he)
or cancell me your Bond:
O cruell Iudge then quoth the Iew,
that doth againſt me ſtand.

And ſo with griped grieued minde
he bideth them farewell:
All the people prayſ'd the Lord,
that euer this heard tell.

Good people that doe heare this Song,
for truth I dare well ſay,
That many a wretch as ill as he
doth liue now at this day,

That ſeeketh nothing but the ſpoyle
of many a wealthie man,
And for to trap the innocent,
deuiſeth what they can.

From whom the Lord deliuer me,
and euery Chriſtian too.
And ſend to them like ſentence eke,
that meaneth ſo to doo.

FINIS.

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